

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

JOHN RENE HEINDEL Oct. 19, 1967

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

OCTOBER 19, 1967

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

PRESENT: MR. RICHARD BURNES, MR. JAMES ALCOCK
and MR. NUMA BERTEL, Assistant District
Attorneys

MEMBERS OF THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

JOHN RENE HEINDEL

* * * *

Reported by:
Maureen B. Thiel,
Secretary
Orleans Parish Grand Jury

JOHN RENE HEINDEL, witness herein, after being duly sworn by the Foreman of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

MR. BURNES:

Please state your name for the record?

A. John Rene Heindel.

Q. Are you the same John Rene Heindel who recently appeared before this Grand Jury?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. What is your address?

A. 202 Rhodes Avenue

Q. What is your profession?

A. I work for the New Orleans Public Service.

Q. In what capacity?

A. Service man.

Q. Do you recall appearing before the Grand Jury very recently and we asked if you had any photographs of yourself in the Marine Corps?

A. Yes and I have them.

Q. You have them with you today?

A. Yes.

Q. And you are willing to loan these to us?

A. Yes. I think there are about 24 in there.

Q. There are 27.

A. All of them are not me, some are of other fellows I was friends with and I thought I would bring those along too.

Q. Would you recognize the people in those photographs?

A. Yes, most of them I would.

Q. I have a series of questions I would like to ask you as Mr. Garrison has asked that I bring these to your attention. When did you leave the Marine Corps?

A. I got out July 15, 1961.

Q. Where did you go to live when you left?

A. I came back here to New Orleans.

Q. Directly to New Orleans?

A. We made a stop at my wife's home outside Springfield, Missouri for a couple of days and came on down here.

Q. Where did you work?

A. I worked for the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad.

Q. Did you ever live at an address 1026 North Beckley?

A. Never heard of the street.

Q. JUROR:

Did you ever live in Dallas, Texas?

A. I have never been to Dallas.

Q. Have you ever known David Ferrie?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever known Clay Shaw?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever known anyone using the name Clem or Clay Bertrand?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever known anyone with a name close to that?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever known Robert Oswald?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever known John Pic?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever been in Texas?

A. Yes, I have been to Port Arthur and in the Panhandle part of Texas this past summer going to Missouri from Arizona.

Q. Have you ever been in any other part of Texas other than those mentioned?

A. No, that is the only part of Texas.

Q. What time did you go to Port Arthur?

A. I was there just this year, my aunt had passed away.

Q. Was that the purpose of your visit?

A. Right.

Q. How long did you visit there?

A. About 4 days.

Q. Have you ever been in Dallas at any time?

A. No.

Q. When did you go to the Panhandle in Texas?

A. Around 1959, the winter of 1959, for Christmas, we were going home for Christmas to Missouri.

Q. How long were you in the Panhandle?

A. Stopped over night.

Q. Did you meet any one you knew while you were there?

A. No.

Q. Prior to November 22, 1963 had you ever heard of the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee"?

A. Only what I read in the newspaper.

Q. Where were you on November 22, 1963?

A. Excuse me, did you say before that date?

Q. That's right.

A. No, I didn't, not until that date, I read about it in the newspapers down here

Q. In other words, you didn't hear about the incident prior to the assassination?

A. Well before that, before the assassination I read something about it in the newspaper. I think they were passing pamphlets or something out down here. But that was all.

Q. That was the only thing you heard about it?

A. Yes sir.

Q. That was before the assassination?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did you know anyone in the "Fair Play for Cuba" activity?

A. No.

Q. Did you recognize Lee Harvey Oswald's participation in the "Fair Play for Cuba" prior to the assassination?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. Did you know that he returned to New Orleans, Louisiana prior to the time you heard of his arrest for the assassination of the President?

A. No sir, I didn't.

Q. Where were you on the date the President was assassinated?

A. I was at work with the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad.

Q. How long had you been working there?

A. 1961 until 3 months ago.

Q. Do you recall specifically being at work on that day?

A. Yes.

Q. What were you doing?

A. On the repair rack which is located at the end of Claiborne where the overpass is on the Industrial Canal.

Q. Did you ever work for the U. S. Government?

A. No sir.

Q. In any capacity?

A. No sir.

Q. Have you ever worked in connection with the Office of Naval Intelligence or the Central Intelligence Agency?

A. No sir.

Q. Not only in any capacity, -- in conjunction with the work?

A. No sir.

Q. Isn't it a fact that you are aware that Lee Harvey Oswald was an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency?

A. No sir.

Q. Have you ever made such a statement to someone that you were aware of the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald was an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency?

A. No sir.

Q. Have you ever made the statement to someone that he worked for, not necessarily as an Agent, but worked for the CIA?

A. No sir.

Q. Is it not a fact that you have been told by representatives of the United States Government that you are not to tell the entire truth about what you know about the assassination of President Kennedy?

A. No.

Q. Do you deny that you have been told not to tell the entire facts?

A. About the Government?

Q. About your knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald or the assassination of the President?

A. No.

Q. Well, have you been told by any representative of the U. S. Government, or someone who held himself to be a representative of the U. S. Government, not to make any statements?

A. No sir.

Q. Were you ever told to forget about what you knew about Lee Harvey Oswald's work in the U. S. Government?

A. No sir.

Q. Were you ever told to forget about what you knew about Lee Harvey Oswald's work in connection with intelligence agencies of the U. S. Government?

A. No sir.

Q. Is it not a fact that you are aware of the relationship that existed between Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie?

A. No sir.

Q. Have you ever made a statement to anyone about your knowledge of the relationship between Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie at any time?

A. No sir.

Q. Is it not a fact that you are aware of the relationship of Lee Harvey Oswald and Clay Shaw?

A. No.

Q. Have you made any statement to anyone subsequent to the arrest of Clay Shaw about his connection with Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. No sir.

Q. Is it not a fact that representatives of the U. S. Government have told you that you are not to tell anyone about the truth about these facts?

A. No.

Q. Were you asked in any form not to reveal any information, I am not saying you are to tell false information, but you are not to give information?

Q. Have you been contacted by anyone subsequent to your appearance before this Grand Jury the last time?

A. No.

Q. Have you been contacted by any reporters?

A. No, never, no sir.

Q. Thank you, these are all the questions I have.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the preceding transcript is a true and correct copy of the testimony given under oath, in the preceding manner, before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, on the 19th day of October, 1967, and reduced to typewriting by me.

Maureen B. Thompson